

# Prevent Youth Firesetting



- Fires started by children playing accounted for an average of **56,300 fires with associated losses of 110 civilian deaths, 880 civilian injuries, and \$286 million** in direct property damage per year between 2005 and 2009.
- **Younger children are more likely to set fires in homes**, while older children and teenagers are more likely to set fires outside.
- **Lighters were the heat source** in half (50 percent) of child-playing fires in homes.

- **Never leave matches or lighters within reach of children. Keep matches and lighters out of reach in high, locked cabinets.**
- **Praise your child for practicing responsible behavior and showing respect for fire. Set a good example; use matches, lighters, and fire carefully, as children will imitate positive behavior.**



**FEMA**

*U.S. Fire Administration*

For information and resources on this subject, visit **[www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus)**